

Additional file 1: Search strategy**DATABASES**

Literature type	Search method
<i>Published literature (international)</i>	Medline, Embase, CINAHL, PsycInfo, ASSIA, Web of Science, Scopus Online, PubMed, Social Care Online
<i>Grey literature (Wales only)</i>	Local authority websites, third sector websites, NHS websites, Primary Care One, CVCs, WCVA, university websites, 'OpenGrey'
<i>Call for materials (Wales only)</i>	Request materials (See Appendix A) from the Wales Social Prescribing Research Networks to include; materials they are using, reports, etc. Requests to contacts in the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research for contacts/resources. Request to WSSPR steering group to identify key evaluations to be included.

SEARCH TERMS

Search term	Alternatives
<i>Social prescribing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social prescriber, social prescription, social capital, social referral • Link worker, link navigator, link coordinator, link co-ordinator • Community connect*, community refer*, community coordinator, community co-ordinator, community navigator, community champion* • First contact practitioner • Parish organiser • Local area co-ordinator, local area coordinator
<i>Community</i>	Community asset, primary care, third sector, charity, public health, community group, social enterprise, local asset, housing, housing association, housing sector, social business*, social value organisation, voluntary sector, projects, arts, outdoor, dance, green, woodland, welfare, activ*, social capital, community benefit, social benefit, community resilience
<i>Evaluation</i>	Monitor*, review*, evaluat*, outcome*, impact, implication, evidence, cost, analysis, process, cost-effective, cost consequence, social value, investment, cost-benefit analysis, indicator, return on investment, tool, scale, quality indicator

SEARCH STRINGS

String 1 - "social prescribing" OR "social prescriber" OR "social prescription" OR "social referral" OR "link worker" OR "link navigator" OR "link coordinator" OR "link co-ordinator" OR "community connector" OR "community connection" OR "community referrer" OR "community referral" OR "community coordinator" OR "community co-ordinator" OR "community navigator" OR "community champion" OR "community champions" OR "first contact practitioner" OR "parish organiser" OR "local area co-ordinator" OR "local area coordinator"

String 2 – evaluat* OR monitor* OR review* OR outcome* OR impact OR implication OR evidence OR cost OR analysis OR process OR cost-effective OR "cost consequence" OR "social value" OR investment OR "cost-benefit analysis" OR indicator OR "return on investment" OR tool OR scale OR "quality indicator" OR effect*

String 3 – "Community asset" OR "primary care" OR "third sector" OR "charity" OR "public health" OR "community group" OR "social enterprise" OR "local asset" OR "housing" OR "housing association" OR "housing sector" OR "social business*" OR "social value organisation" OR "voluntary sector" OR "projects" OR "arts" OR "outdoor" OR "dance" OR "green" OR "woodland" OR "welfare" OR "activ*" OR "social capital" OR "community benefit" OR "social benefit" OR "community resilience"

String 3 (Ab) AND string 2 (Ab) AND String 1 (Full text)

INCLUSION CRITERIA

Component	Inclusion	Exclusion
<i>Intervention</i>	<p>Clear link to the social prescribing pathway.</p> <p>A community asset must have received referrals from a link worker*.</p> <p>Intervention includes primary care, third sector and private sector organisations.</p>	<p>Evaluations which do not mention the “link worker*” process</p> <p>Community asset independent of social prescribing.</p>
<i>Referrer</i>	<p>Primary care setting</p> <p>Community healthcare provider</p> <p>Third sector</p> <p>Self-referral</p>	<p>Self-referral direct to a community asset without link worker.</p>
<i>Participant group</i>	<p>Participants age 18 years.</p> <p>Any physical or mental health condition.</p>	<p>People under age 18 years.</p>
<i>Design</i>	<p>All evaluation & monitoring designs.</p> <p>Process, implementation & outcome evaluations.</p>	<p>Studies where evaluation/monitoring design is not described or defined in sufficient detail.</p> <p>Studies which do not involve an evaluation of a social prescribing intervention.</p>
<i>Document</i>	<p>Peer-reviewed articles</p> <p>Grey literature</p> <p>PhD, MPhil & MRes reports</p> <p>Unpublished evaluation reports</p> <p>Organisational reports</p> <p>Posters</p> <p>Case studies</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>Operating procedures</p> <p>Guidelines</p>	<p>Editorials, opinion articles, communications, protocols</p>
<i>Outcomes</i>	<p>Individual level</p> <p>Organisation level</p> <p>System level</p>	
<i>Location & language</i>	<p>Published literature – international</p> <p>Grey literature - Wales only</p> <p>English & Welsh language only.</p>	
<i>Date</i>	<p>Papers published 1 January 1998 (start of devolution) to 31 May 2020</p>	